

**Town of Belmont
Capital Budget Committee
Belmont Town Hall, Room 4
Thursday Evening, April 30, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members of the Committee present at the time of the call to order were: M. Patricia Brusch, Mark F. Clark, John Conte, Jennifer M. Fallon, Daniel Leclerc and Ann Rittenburg. Also present were Barbara Hagg, Town Accountant and staff liaison to the Capital Budget Committee, and Thomas Younger, Town Administrator. Anne Marie Mahoney joined the meeting during discussion of the driveway at the High School.

The Committee had the following materials before it:

1. Agenda for the meeting prepared by Mark Clark, Secretary.
2. A tally sheet provided by Ms. Hagg, listing all capital requests for FY 2010 and all members of the Committee.

Update on FY10 Budget Process

(Item 2 on the Committee Agenda)

Mrs. Brush reported to the Committee the status of budget preparations. There has been no change in the amount allocated to the Capital Budget Committee for FY2010. That amount is \$1,758,373 which, after deduction of the amount for roads, comes to \$681,098 for everything else. Next, Mrs. Brush lead a review of possible revisions from completed capital projects authorized in past years. These reversion could be re-appropriated for police cruisers, computers at the library or other capital projects. It was pointed out that some available reversions had been re-appropriated during FY09 to meet the Town's energy needs. Mrs. Brusch and Ms. Hagg undertook to confer concerning the funds still un-re-appropriated.

Preliminary Discussion of FY10 Capital Appropriations

(Item 3 on the Committee Agenda)

Using the tally sheet provided by Ms. Hagg, the Committee undertook a discussion and tentative vote concerning each request for a capital appropriation for FY10. Mrs. Brusch pointed out that some members of the Committee choose to approach this process by devising a program that would spend every dollar allocated to this Committee but no more. Other members tended to vote for all projects that they approved, whether funds were available or not, and trim the program to fit the budget after the completed tally is known. Mrs. Brusch called the attention of the Committee to

each request in succession and asked every member to express a tentative vote and any comments.

All requests received some discussion, but there was discussion particularly of several items. With regard to the funds for a security system at the Wellington School, Ms. Fallon pointed out that funds would not be needed for this purpose if the public approved a debt exclusion proposal for a new building. She proposed that security funds for the Wellington be appropriated on a contingent basis only, with another use to be specified. Ms. Hagg pointed out that such a contingent appropriation was not appropriate. Mrs. Brusch pointed out that unused funds could be re-appropriated at a fall town meeting.

There seemed to be a consensus among Committee members that the paving situation at the Library and the High School driveway should be addressed but the member were uncomfortable with proposals made by the School Department and the Library. Mrs. Brusch reported that Peter Castanino, Director of Public Works, [this is consistent with my memory and my notes but Barbara’s notes say Glenn] had inspected the Library and concluded that the needed work, including an asphalt berm, could be undertaken for \$16,500. The Committee discussed how much of the driveway in front of the High School should be replaced but concluded that Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, should inspect the situation and advise. There was a general consensus among Committee members that the work on both projects should be undertaken in contracts arranged by and supervised by the Department of Community Development, regardless of the budgets from which the payments might come. There was also considerable discussion of the univent request concerning the High School. Mr. Clark pointed out that the renovation of the High School appeared to him to be a long way in the future and advocated for an immediate bonding of a univent project. Mrs. Brusch was unclear whether the School Department had requested “stimulus” funds for a univent project. Mr. Conti pointed out that the Town might save money by relying on bond anticipation notes for such a project.

When the tentative tally was complete and counted up the following projects had received a majority of votes but \$28,798 remained unallocated. In addition, several questions remained outstanding and a number of projects had received “maybe” votes or “question mark” votes.

Department	Project	Amount
Schools		
Bldgs & Grounds	Elementary Schools security system	135,000
	CMS Energy Management	50,000
Bldg Envelope	HS paving of front driveway	100,000

Town		
Police	911 CAD & QED systems	40,000
Fire	Hydraulic Rescue Tools - corrected	42,000
*Library	Walkways & sidewalks (Glenn's quote)	16,500
Community Development	Chapter 90 Pavement work Final	398,880
	Pavement management	1,077,275
Public Works	Highway Snowfighter conversion	38,800
	Highway - Dump truck 37K GVW	101,000
Building Services	Town Hall	43,000
	Town Yard	48,000
	Cemetery	38,000
Enterprise Funds		
Sewer	Dump Truck	101,000
	Vactor lease/purchase, coordinated with water (over three years)	29,884
	Asphalt hot box	30,000
	Sewer & Drain Replacements	275,000
	Total Sewer Enterprise	435,884

Water	Doors & Windows	44,000
	Security system	42,000
	Small Utility vehicle	22,825
	Vactor Lease/Purchase, coordinated with sewer (over 3 years - 2nd yr)	29,884
	Water main replacement program	502,809
	Total - Water Enterprise	138,709
SUMMARY		2,703,048
General Fund	Non Pavement Mangement	652,300
General Fund	Pavement Mangement	1,077,275
*Debt Service for HVAC units	Within the Debt service budget	150,000
Chapter 90		398,880
Sewer Fund		435,884
Water Fund		138,709
	TOTAL FY09 REQUESTS TO DATE	2,853,048
Available funds	General Fund FY10 capital budget:	1,758,373
	Available for spending	28,798

CBC Written Report for 2009
(Item 4 on Committee Agenda)

Mr. Clark pointed out that the subjects set forth in this Committee's report to the 2008 Town Meeting were listed in the agenda he had supplied for this meeting. He recommended that the same subjects be included in this year's report because there are new Town Meeting members each year and some recommendations of this Committee are still relevant. Of course, some elements require updating such as the budget recommendations in the sense of major capital projects and the five-year projections. A consensus developed that this would be a satisfactory approach to a report but the report should emphasize the need for more funds for capital infrastructure and should emphasize that the consequences of the negative vote on the road override.

Adjournment

(Item 5 on Committee Agenda)

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Clark